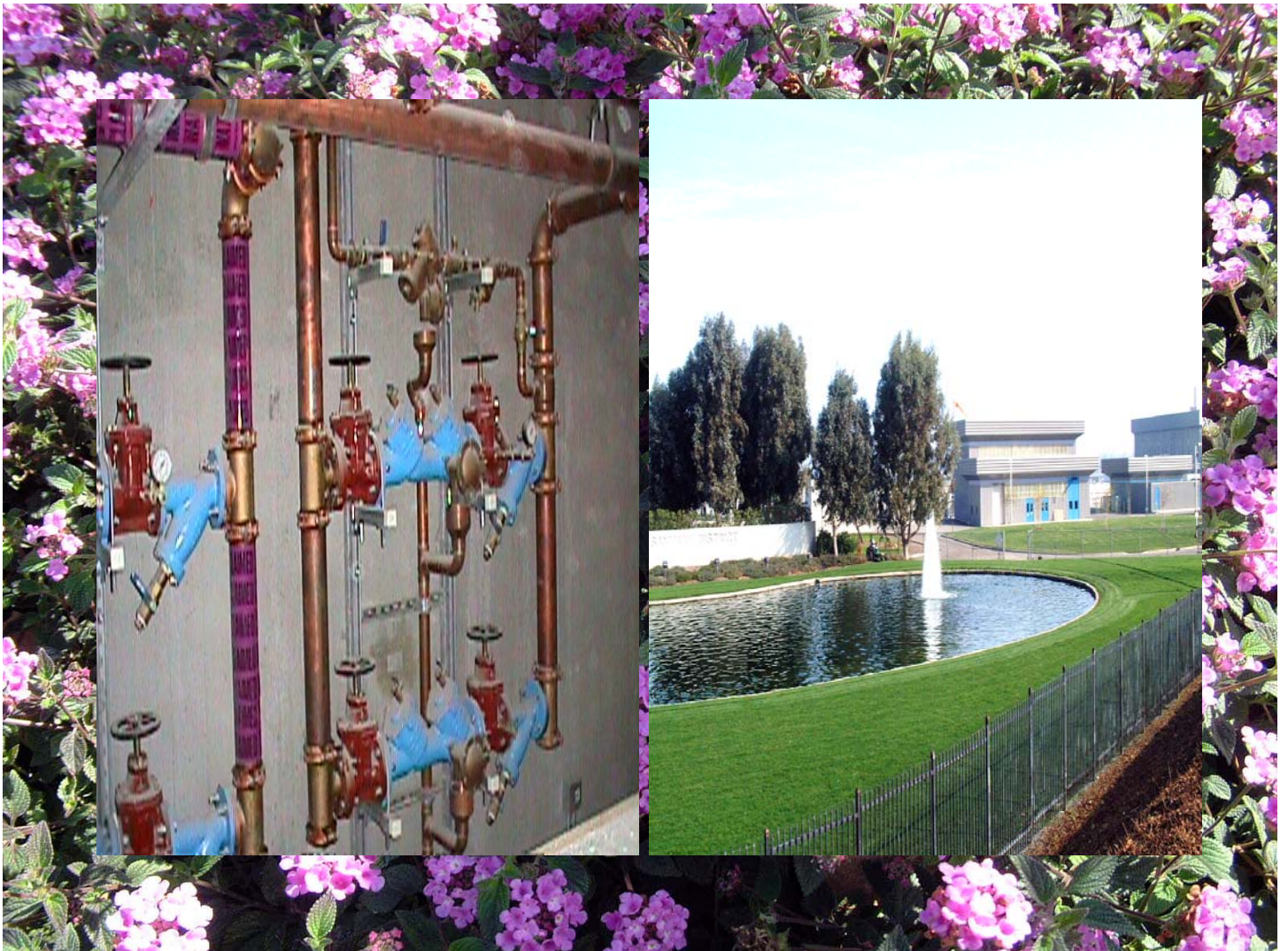


State of California

**Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services**

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



May 2002

WATER RECYCLING & REUSE

Governor Davis Announces Formation of First-ever State Recycled Water Task Force;

Blue Ribbon Panel to recommend ways to increase water supplies

News release, Governor's Office - 4/2/02

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis today announced the formation and the inaugural meeting of the State Recycled Water Task Force. The blue-ribbon panel of experts recommends ways to increase California's supply of recycled water and has set a goal to provide enough safe recycled water for the needs of up to 1.5 million Californians by 2007.

"Water is without a doubt the lifeline of our State," said Governor Davis. "I formed this important Task Force to make sure that as our State's population expands we will have a safe, reliable and adequate supply of water for all Californians."

The Task Force will discuss a range of subjects, including ways to increase the use of recycled water in industrial and commercial applications; opportunities for increasing the use of recycled water in applications such as commercial laundries; and approaches to work closely with initiatives in the CALFED program to maximize water conservation and water use efficiency strategies.

The Task Force is a result of Governor Davis signing AB 331 into law in October 2001. Organized and administered by the State Department of Water Resources, the Task Force is chaired by Richard Katz, a member of the State Water Resources Control Board. The Task Force is composed of experts on the safe and beneficial uses of recycled water including a broad range of community participants, and representatives from environmental organizations and industry.

Among the Task Force members is Dr. Takashi Asano, a UC Davis adjunct professor of civil and environmental engineering and the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize for his outstanding achievements related to recycled water and protection of the world's water resources. The Stockholm Prize is considered by water scientists to be on par with the Nobel Prize in other disciplines.

The Task Force is holding its first meeting in the Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street in Sacramento at 10 a.m. on April 3, 2002. The next meeting will be held June 3, 2002 in conjunction with the Water Reuse Research Conference in Los Angeles. The Task Force is charged with preparing a report of recommendations by July 1, 2003. #

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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The 2002 Recycled Water Task Force was convened on April 3, 2002 by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as directed by Assembly Bill 331, passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 7, 2001. The Task Force is chaired by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) member Richard Katz. The intent of the Task Force is to advise DWR on opportunities for and constraints to increasing the use of recycled water and to report to the Legislature no later than July 1, 2003. A copy of AB 331 is attached for reference.

AB 331 cites two goals for investigating water recycling. The first is a statewide goal to recycle a total of 700,000 acre-feet of water per year by the year 2000 and 1,000,000 acre-feet of water per year by the year 2010 (Section 13577, Water Code). The second is a recommendation of Governor Davis' Advisory Drought Planning Panel Critical Water Shortage Contingency Plan. That recommendation is, "In the interest of implementing the CALFED water use efficiency program (water conservation and water recycling actions) as quickly as possible, the Panel recommends that DWR maximize use of grants, rather than capitalization loans, to bring local agencies up to the base level of efficiency contemplated in the CALFED Record of Decision. The Panel recognizes that this recommendation would correspondingly accelerate the need for an additional source of State financial assistance for the water use efficiency program."

It will be helpful if some key terms are defined. "*Recycled water*" is defined in the California Water Code to mean "*water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur.*" For the present purposes we can simplify this to mean wastewater that has been treated to a quality that is suitable to use the water again. This could include both agricultural return waters and municipal wastewater; however, it appears that the intent of AB 331 is to focus on the reuse of treated municipal wastewater. "Reclaimed water" and "reclaimed wastewater" are other terms in common use equivalent to recycled water.

In recent years "water recycling" has come to be an umbrella term encompassing the process of treating wastewater, storing and distributing the recycled water, and the actual use of the recycled water. "Water reclamation" and "Wastewater reclamation and reuse" are other equivalent terms. In 1995, provisions of the Water Code, Fish and Game Code, Health and Safety Code, and other statutes were amended to replace terms such as wastewater "reclamation" and "reclaimed water" with "water recycling" and "recycled water." This legislation was intended to enhance public acceptance of recycled water supplies.

Status of Water Reuse in California

Both planned and unplanned water recycling takes place in California. Unplanned reuse occurs when treated wastewater is discharged into a stream and diverted downstream for additional beneficial use. In some hydrologic basins in California, nearly all effluent is incidentally recycled in this way. A much smaller component of treated municipal wastewater is reused in a planned scheme of distribution through pipelines or canals directly from a wastewater treatment plant to the points of use, such as farms, industries or city parks. The year 2000 is the last year for which comprehensive data are available for planned use of

municipal wastewater. The total amount of recycled water delivered was estimated to be 402,000 acre-feet annually. (An acre-foot, equal to 326,000 gallons, would serve one to two families a year.) While concrete estimates of total wastewater generated are not available, based on previous estimates, about 8 to 10 percent of municipal wastewater is recycled in planned projects. A summary of the year 2000 survey data compiled by the SWRCB is available. Also available is a complete report of a survey done in 1987. While the numbers are outdated, the general characteristics of water recycling have not changed and the detailed analysis done for 1987 is still informative to obtain an understanding of how and why water recycling takes place.

Roles and Regulatory Framework

Water recycling is accomplished in California with the involvement of many entities at all levels of government and in some cases investor-owned utilities. Water supply and wastewater districts are primarily responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of the over 200 projects operating in the State. The SWRCB and the Bureau have played major roles in providing capital funding for local projects. Several large regional wholesale water agencies, for example, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority, have also provided significant financial assistance to local agencies. DWR and CALFED have incorporated water recycling in the water supply planning for the state. DWR has provided planning assistance in regional studies and a coordination and promotional role in facilitating water recycling.

Regulation of water recycling is vested by state law in SWRCB and Department of Health Services (DHS). Permits are issued to each water recycling project by one of the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) that are part of the SWRCB. These permits include water quality protections as well as public health protections by incorporating criteria established by DHS. The criteria issued by DHS are found in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. DHS does not have enforcement authority for the Title 22 criteria; the RWQCBs enforce them through enforcement of their permits containing the applicable criteria. To protect public drinking water supplies, DHS also has regulations to prevent cross connections between recycled water systems and potable water systems. Local health departments and DHS have enforcement authority over these cross connection prevention regulations. The California Building Standards Commission sets plumbing standards for use of recycled water in buildings and industries. There are lesser roles for other agencies and other applicable laws that become important in specific instances. The 1996 Memorandum of Agreement between the SWRCB and DHS provides a good description of the regulatory roles and joint responsibilities of these two agencies. This document can be provided.